

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A collar protector for protecting the collar on a garment having a collar button comprising, a body made of a resilient material, said body having, a relatively wide center section, said center section having an attachment assembly for releasable engagement with the collar button, relatively wide and spaced side sections each respectively connected at one an inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section, said center section having an attachment assembly formed therein for releasable attachment to the collar button; and each of the side sections having a resilient holding member ~~disposed~~ formed from, connected at its same inner end with and extending in the same direction from said inner connected end of its associated one of the said side sections to dispose in assembled position the free end of each respective holding member for operative association with the collar on ~~a~~ the garment to hold the collar in position.

2. (original) The collar protector in claim 1, wherein the attachment assembly includes an inwardly extending cutaway section with a wide outer end and a restricted inner end.

3. (original) The collar protector in claim 1, wherein said body is constructed of polymer material.

4. (currently amended) A collar protector for the collar on a garment wherein said collar has, an inner face, an outer face and a collar button, comprising, a body made of a resilient material, said body having a relatively wide center section, said center section having an attachment assembly formed therein for releasable engagement with the collar button, relatively wide and spaced side sections each respectively connected at an inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section to form a free end, each of the respective side sections having a resilient holding

~~member, The collar protector in claim 1, wherein each resilient holding member comprises~~ is an elongated strip formed from and connected at its inner end with and extending in the same direction from the inner connected end of its associated one of the side sections, said elongated strip connected at one end to its associated side section and each said elongated strip having a free end remote from its said connected end disposed in assembled position on opposite sides of the center section to engage the outer face of the collar on the said garment.

5. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ each elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

6. (original) The collar protector in claim 5, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

7. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 1, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

8. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 1 or 4, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

9. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 1 or 4, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector and an arcuate shape transverse to the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

10. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 1 or 4, wherein the body is constructed of plastic material having a three dimensional shape.

11. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 1 or 4, wherein the attachment assembly comprises, a depression in the center section.

12. (original) The collar protector in claim 1, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members

have portions lying in planes extending above and below said first plane.

13. (original) The collar protector in claim 12, wherein said body is constructed of plastic material, said body having an arcuate shape and said holding members having an S-shape.

14. (canceled)

15. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 14, wherein each resilient holding member includes, an elongated strip formed from its associated side section, and each said elongated strip connected at one end near the center section to which its associated side section is connected, wherein the center section and the side sections lie in a first plane and the elongated strips lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

16. (withdrawn) A collar protector in claim 15, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The combination with a A-garment having, a collar with an inner face, an outer face and provided with a collar button in combination with of a collar protector, ~~the combination comprising,~~ a body made of a resilient material~~+~~, said body having a center section and spaced side sections each respectively connected at an inner~~one~~ end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section~~+~~, said center section having an attachment assembly formed therein for releasable engagement ~~with attachment to~~ the collar button~~+~~, each of the side sections having a resilient holding member formed from, connected at its

same inner end with and extending in the same direction from said inner connected end of its associated one of the said side sections to dispose in assembled position the free end of each respective holding member~~disposed~~ for operative association with the outer face of the collar on a said garment to hold the collar in position. ~~and a garment having a collar and a collar button to which the collar protector is attached.~~

24. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein the attachment assembly includes an inwardly extending cutaway section with a wide outer end and a restricted inner end.

25. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein said body is constructed of polymer material.

26. (currently amended) The combination in claim 23, wherein each resilient holding member comprises an elongated strip formed from its associated side section, and said elongated strip connected at ~~one~~an inner end to its associated one of the side section and having a free end remote from said connected end disposed to engage the outer face of the collar on the garment.

27. (original) The combination in claim 26, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

28. (original) The combination in claim 27, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

29. (withdrawn) The combination in claim 23, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and the holding members lie in a second plane spaced from the first plane.

30. (original) The combination as in claim 23, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

31. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein said body has an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction of the

collar protector and an arcuate shape transverse to the lengthwise direction of the collar protector.

32. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein the body is constructed of plastic material having a three dimensional shape.

33. (original) The combination in claim 23, wherein the attachment assembly comprises a depression in the center section.

34. (currently amended) The combination in claim 23, wherein the side sections lie in a first plane and each respective ~~the~~ holding members has ~~have~~ portions lying in planes extending above and below said first plane.

35. (currently amended) The combination in claim 34, wherein said body is constructed of plastic material, said body having an arcuate shape and said holding members having an S-shape.

36. (withdrawn) A three dimensional collar protector constructed from plastic material comprising a generally unitary body made of polymer material having an arcuate shape in lengthwise direction thereof, said body disposed in a first curved plane; said body having a center section and spaced side sections each respectively connected at one end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section; and each of the side sections having a holding member disposed in a second curved plane spaced from said first curved plane, said holding members arranged for operative association with the collar on a garment to hold the collar is positioned.

37. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 36, wherein each resilient holding member comprises an elongated strip formed from its associated side section; said elongated strip connected at one end to its associated side section and having a

free end remote from said connected end disposed to engage the outer face of the collar on the garment.

38. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 37, wherein the elongated strip of each resilient holding member has a convoluted shape.

39. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 38, wherein the convoluted shape is S-shaped.

40. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 36, wherein portions of said holding members lie above and below said first plane.

41. (withdrawn) The collar protector in claim 40, wherein said holding members are S-shaped.

42. (withdrawn) The combination of a collar protector and a garment having a collar, the combination comprising a collar protector as set forth in claim 36 attached to the collar of a garment.

43. (currently amended) A three dimensional collar protector ~~constructed from plastic material for the collar on a garment~~ comprising, a generally unitary body made of polymer material; said body having a relatively wide center section and spaced side sections each respectively connected at one an inner end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from the center section, said center section and a first portion of each of said side sections disposed in a first plane; and each of the side sections having a holding member formed from, connected at its same inner end with and having a free end extending in the same direction from said connected end of its associated one of the said side sections, each of said holding members having a first portion disposed above said first plane, and said holding members arranged for operative association with the collar on a said garment to hold the collar is positioned.

44. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein said first plane is curved in the longitudinal direction of said body.

45. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein each of said holding members have a second portion disposed below said first plane.

46. (original) The collar protector in claim 45, wherein said holding members have an S-shape.

47. (original) The collar protector in claim 43, further including a tab extending away from said center section.

48. (currently amended) The collar protector in claim 43, wherein said first plane ~~is~~ is arcuate.

49. (canceled)

50. (canceled)

51. (canceled)

52. (canceled)

53. (canceled)

54. (canceled)

55. (canceled)

56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) The combination with a garment having a collar with an inner face, an outer face and a collar button of a collar protector comprising:

a. a generally unitary body made of a resilient material having a center section and at least two spaced side sections,

b. said center section on the collar protector has an attachment assembly for releasably connecting the collar protector to the collar button on the collar in assembled position,

cb. said spaced side sections each respectively connected at one end to the center section and disposed to extend in opposite directions from said center section,

de. said spaced side sections having at least one first ~~spaced~~ arm thereon extending ~~in opposite directions~~ from said center section and in assembled position disposed for engagement with the inner face of the collar, and

ed. said spaced side sections having at least one second ~~spaced~~ arm thereon disposed for engagement with the outer face of the collar to releasably hold the collar protector in assembled position.

58. (canceled)

59. (currently amended) The combination as in claims 57 ~~or 58~~ wherein the first spaced arm and the second spaced arm are disposed in side-by-side relationship.

60. (currently amended) The combination as in claims 57 ~~or 58~~ wherein the first spaced arm and the second spaced arm are curved.

61. (currently amended) The combination as in claims 57 ~~58 or 59~~ wherein the first spaced arm and the second spaced arm are in side-by-side relationship and are curved along the longitudinal line.